

ANNEX BBBB

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

A. PURPOSE

1. Wage earners consider loss of income an emergency situation even under non-disaster circumstances. For disaster victims who become unemployed, the need for employment compensation becomes even more critical due to other hardships caused by the disaster.
2. Individuals unemployed as a result of a major disaster are eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) when authorized by the President. This annex describes the policies, procedures and responsibilities for implementing the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program.

B. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. Disaster Unemployment Assistance may be made available to individuals unemployed as a result of a major disaster. The West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs has primary responsibility for administering this program.
2. The Bureau of Employment Programs, Unemployment Compensation Division, assesses unemployment resulting from the disaster. The Governor will base his formal application to the President for DUA funds with this information.
3. In the event of a major disaster, the Bureau of Employment Programs assembles an Emergency Workforce Office from its regular personnel.
4. As soon as an affected area is declared eligible, the Bureau of Employment Programs Commissioner, in coordination with the FEMA Public Information Office, publicizes the availability of DUA benefits. Individuals must apply within 30 days of the Commissioner's announcement.
5. The Bureau of Employment Programs may assign personnel to take claims applications at Disaster Recovery Centers.
6. When Disaster Recovery Centers close, an office is set up to receive applications when no permanent Bureau of Employment Programs field office is located within the disaster area.
7. Eligible individuals may receive DUA benefits for up to one year after the major disaster declaration. If the individual is re-employed during this period, benefits are discontinued.
8. Benefits shall not exceed the maximum weekly amount authorized under the unemployment compensation law of West Virginia and are reduced by the amount

of regular unemployment compensation or of private income protection insurance available to the individual.

9. The Bureau of Employment Programs Job Service also provides re-employment assistance services to disaster victims.

C. TASK ASSIGNMENTS

1. The West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs has total responsibility for implementing Unemployment Assistance provided by PL 93-288, as amended, Title IV, Section 407. The following tasks are to be performed by the Bureau of Employment Programs.

- a. Provide unemployment information to the Governor;
- b. Train personnel to work with disaster victims.
- c. Administer the DUA program;
- d. Provide reemployment services to disaster victims.

D. COORDINATION AND REPORTING

1. The Bureau of Employment Programs is responsible for a daily report to the FEMA Individual Assistance Officer, indicating:

- a. Number of claims filed;
- b. Number of claims approved (including amounts approved);
- c. Number of claims disapproved;
- d. Number of claims pending.

E. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- 1. Rules prescribed by the U.S. Department of Labor in accordance with the West Virginia - U.S. Department of Labor Agreement.
- 2. PL 93-288, Section 407, as amended, "Unemployment Assistance"
- 3. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 20, as amended
- 4. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, as amended